

CLASS : 8

SUB : HISTORY

CH. 5 : WHEN PEOPLE REBEL 1857 AND AFTER

EXERCISE SOLUTION

BY : RKY

Q1. What was the demand of Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi that was refused by the British?

Ans. Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi wanted the East India Company to recognise her adopted son Damodar Rao as the king of the princely state of Jhansi after the death of her husband Gangadhar Rao. But, the British refused to accept her adopted son as the king and annexed Jhansi under the Doctrine of Lapse.

Q2. What did the British do to protect the interests of those who converted to Christianity?

Ans. In 1850, the British passed a new law to make conversion to Christianity easier. This law allowed an Indian who had converted to Christianity to inherit the property of his ancestors.

Q3. What objections did the sepoys have to the new cartridges that they were asked to use?

Ans. The new cartridges that the sepoys were asked to use were reported to be greased with the fat of cows and pigs. They had to bite the cartridges to load them into the rifles. But this was completely against their religious sentiments. Hence, they denied using the new cartridges.

Q4. How did the last Mughal emperor live the last years of his life?

Ans. Bahadur Shah Zafar was the last Mughal emperor. He lived a very pathetic life during the last years of his life. The sepoys proclaimed him as their leader in their fight against the

British. He was the symbolic head of the 1857 revolt. However, after the failure of the revolt, he was tried in the court and was sentenced to life imprisonment. His sons and grandson were shot dead by the British. He and his wife were sent to prison in Rangoon where he died in 1862.

Q5. What could be the reasons for the confidence of the British rulers about their position in India before May 1857?

Ans. These were the reasons for the confidence of the British ruler about their position in India before May 1857 :

(i) The British imposed Subsidiary Alliance on many Indian princely states and disbanded their armies. Hence, there was no threat from these armyless princely states.

(ii) The company successfully annexed many princely states by using the policy of Doctrine of Lapse.

(iii) The decline of the Mughals and Marathas also strengthened the position of the British in India.

(iv) Before 1857, the British successfully suppressed many revolts. So, they were very confident of their military strength.

(v) Many Indian kings, nawabs and zamindars were in support of the British rule. It also boosted the morale of the British in India.

Q6. What impact did Bahadur Shah Zafar's support to the rebellion have on the people and the ruling families?

Ans. Bahadur Shah Zafar's support to the rebellion had a great impact on the people and the ruling families. He asked all the rulers and the chiefs of the country to come forward and organise a confederacy of Indian states to fight the British rule. The leadership of the Mughal emperor provided legitimacy to

this rebellion. All small and big kingdoms, kings, rajas, nawabs, zamindars, and many Hindu and Muslim religious leaders welcomed his leadership and joined the rebel troops at Delhi, Kanpur and Lucknow. The people from various towns and villages also rose up in the rebellion and rallied around their local leaders.

Q7. How did the British succeed in securing the submission of the rebel landowners of Awadh?

Ans. The British succeeded in securing the submission of the rebel landowners of Awadh by using following methods :

- (i) They announced rewards for loyal landowners of Awadh.**
- (ii) The British allowed them to enjoy the traditional rights over their lands.**
- (iii) The British also exempted them from paying taxes.**

Q8. In what ways did the British change their policies as a result of the rebellion of 1857?

Ans. As a result of the rebellion of 1857 the British changed their policies in following ways :

- (i) The rule of the British East India Company was abolished and the control of the government in India was transferred to the British Crown.**
- (ii) A minister of the British cabinet, called the secretary of state, was made responsible for the governance in India.**
- (iii) A Council, called the India Council, was formed to advise the secretary of state.**

(iv) The governor-general of India was given the title of Viceroy which means the personal representative of the British Queen.

(v) The Doctrine of Lapse was abolished and all the Indian rulers were allowed to pass their kingdoms to their heirs including adopted sons.

(vi) The number of the European soldiers in the British army was increased.

(vii) Muslims were held responsible for the rebellion, therefore strict policies were adopted against them and their land and property were confiscated.

(viii) Policies were made to protect landlords and zamindars and to maintain their rights over their lands.